

- the epitope of GAD65 comprises the amino acids 102-585 of [the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2b] SEQ ID NO:6, and

- the epitope of PPINS comprises all the amino acids 1-110 of [the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2c] SEQ ID NO:7.--

--4 (amended). ~~The fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein the linker peptide comprises lysine and [argine] arginine residues.--~~

Sub E²
--7 (amended). A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein said cDNA comprises [the] nucleotide sequences encoding [the] epitopes of at least two [of the] autoantigens wherein one of said autoantigens is preproinsulin and a second of said autoantigens is selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65)[,] and islet cell antigen (IA2) [and preproinsulin (PPINS)].--

C3
--8 (amended). A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 3 wherein said cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequences

a) nucleotides 1311 to 1755 of [the sequence according to Figures 3a to 3b] SEQ ID NO:8 encoding GAD65, aa 102-585,

b) nucleotides 2313 to 2937 of [the sequence according to Figures 3c to 3e] SEQ ID NO:9 encoding IA2, aa 771-979, and

c) nucleotides 2424 to 2610 and 3397 to 3539 of [the sequence according to Figure 3f-3i] SEQ ID NO:10 encoding PPINS, aa 1-110, where said nucleotide sequence a), b) and c) can appear in any relative order.--

Please add the following new claims:

Sub E³
C4
--18. A fusion protein comprising epitopes of at least two autoantigens selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid decarboxylase, islet cell antigen and preproinsulin, wherein said fusion protein comprises a label.--

--19. The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein said label is radioactive or fluorescent.--